

## Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAB-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 AID-20 /128 W

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R 151021Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO USMISSION GENEVA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1186

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0257

GENEV\* ALSO FOR MEPC DEL

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJECT: KNESSET ELECTION RESULTS

REF: GENEVA 0166

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF TEL AVIV A009 POUCHED JAN 16.

2. THE DECEMBER 31 KNESSET ELECTION PRODUCED NO DECISIVE CHANGE IN THE ISRAELI POLITICAL SCENE. HOWEVER, TWO LONG TERM PROCESSES C NTINUED TO MANIEFEST THEMSELVES: A) A SLOW AND GRADUAL SHIFT TO THE RIGHT AND B) A TREND TOWARD LARGE BLOCS AND THE EROSION OF THE SMALL PARTIES.

3. THE LABOR ALIGNMENT CONTINUES AS THE DOMINANT FORCE IN ISRAELI POLITICS, ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT \*EAKENED BY ITS DECLINE FROM 57 TO 51 KNESSET SEATS. WHILE STILL DEPENDENT ON OTHER PARTIES TO FORM A COALITION GOVT, IT REMAINS THE ONLY PARTY CAPABLE OF LEADING A COALITION. ALTHOUGH COALITION IS MATHEMATICALLY FEASIBLE WITHOUT THE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY, LABOR ALIGNMENT CONTINUES TO\*REGAR\* IT AS VIRTUALLY INDISPENSABLE ELEMENT IN FORMATION OF NEXT GOVT.

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4. THE FACT THAT THE ALIGNMENT RETAINED ITS DOMINANT POSITION

HAS UNDERSCORED THE CONSERVATIVE VOTING PATTERN OF THE ISRAELI ELECTORATE, AND THE FEELING OF MANY ISRAELIS THAT THE MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTY, LIKUD, OFFERED NO REALISTIC ALTERNATIVE. MANY VOTERS SOUGHT TO PUNISH THE ALIGNMENT, NOT DEFEAT IT. LIKUD'S INCREASED STRENGTH DOES NOT SEEM TO REPRESENT A SHIFT IN VOTER ATTITUDES ON ISSUES OF WAR AND PEACE.

5. WHILE SHIFTS IN THE VOTING PATTERN WERE GREATER THAN IN MOST PREVIOUS ELECTIONS, THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM IS SO ORGANIZED AS TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT OF THESE CHANGES ON THE ALLOCATION OF KNESSET SEATS. THE LARGER PARTIES THUS SECURED A SLIGHTLY HIGHER KNESSET REPRESENTATION THAN THEIR ACTUAL VOTE MIGHT WARRANT, AT THE EXPENSE OF THE SMALLER PARTIES.

6. UNOFFICIAL ESTIMATES OF MILITARY VOTE SHOW SLIM MAJORITY OF SOLDIERS VOTED FOR PARTIES FAVORING A MORE MODERATE LINE ON TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS--I.E. PARTIES OTHER THAN LIKUD AND THE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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